



CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TUESDAY TIDBITS

November 2016

Tuesday Tidbits is the CSDE's weekly e-mail for Connecticut school nutrition sponsors. It provides simple suggestions, reminders, resources and advice to help run a successful school nutrition program. Previous editions are available on the CSDE's [Tuesday Tidbits](#) Web page.

November 1, 2016: Important New Beverage Guidance

The USDA Administrative Review guidance for 2016-17 clearly states the following:

Program operators are not to promote or offer water, or any other beverage, as an alternative selection to fluid milk THROUGHOUT the food service area.

Signs describing the reimbursable meal must convey that milk is offered as a separate food component and not as a “beverage choice”.

The CSDE staff will be looking to see that water and other beverages (such as a la carte juice offerings) are not offered for sale in the same area where reimbursable meals are served. AND that these beverage offerings are clearly labeled with the individual price of the beverage item.

November 8, 2016: SAVE THE DATE: Fourth Annual Connecticut School Breakfast Summit and USDA Foods Show

“Building a Better Breakfast”

Friday, March 3, 2017

Sheraton Hartford South Hotel – 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill

This fourth breakfast summit will focus on helping schools grow their School Breakfast Program to improve student participation. Come and hear about the great things happening with breakfast right here in Connecticut schools. When the Summit concludes at noon, visit the USDA Foods Show to see many new products available for the 2017-18 school year.

Sponsored by the Connecticut Breakfast Expansion Team (CBET) in cooperation with the CT State Department of Education and the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut.

TUESDAY TIDBITS, continued

November 15, 2016: Winter Farmers Markets in Connecticut

Did you know that Connecticut has its own [Farmers Market Trail](#)?

There are over 20 Farmers' Markets that are highlighted on this trail all across Connecticut. While many Farmers' Markets end in October, some celebrate locally grown winter crops. Below is a list of just a few of the *Winter Markets* that are featured on the Farmers' Market Trail Web site. For more information, visit the [Winter Markets](#) Web page.

Coventry Winter Farmers' Market Sundays, 11-2 at the Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Road, Coventry CT. 34 full time vendors and a variety of guest vendors each weekend. November 15- March 27 (no market March 20)

Billings Forge Indoor Winter Market, Thursdays, 11-2 in the Studio at Billings Forge, 536 Broad Street, Hartford, adjacent to Firebox parking lot.

Bozrah Holiday Market Maples Farm Park, 45 Bozrah Street (Rt 13) Bozrah, CT
20 local vendors, 1 day only November 21, 1 am to 1 pm

Ellington Winter Farmers' Market Saturdays, YMCA, 11 Pinney Road, Ellington , CT.
2-4 pm. Nov. 21, Dec. 5 & 19, Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 6 & 20, March 5 & 19

November 22, 2016: *No Tuesday Tidbit*

Disclaimer: *Tuesday Tidbits* provides general information to assist Connecticut sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) school nutrition programs. It does not represent all federal and state requirements and regulations regarding the operation of the USDA school nutrition programs. The inclusion of links to external Web sites does not constitute the Connecticut State Department of Education's endorsement of the information, products, services or opinions contained therein.

TUESDAY TIDBITS, continued

November 29, 2016: On-site Monitoring Reminder

In accordance with Section 210.8(a)(1) of the USDA regulations, each school district with more than one school must conduct an on-site review of the lunch counting and claiming system used by each school.

New this year, districts must also conduct on-site monitoring of the breakfast counting and claiming system in at least 50 percent of the schools that serve breakfast. The purpose of the on-site review is to ensure that each school's claim is based on valid meal counting procedures and to observe compliance with other general areas.

This review must take place prior to February 1 of each year. If problems are found, the district must implement corrective action within 45 days. To conduct this review properly, the reviewer must stay for the entire meal service period to observe the final consolidation of the daily meal counts. The CSDE recommends that schools begin this process early to allow time for a complete review at each site.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Observe the counting and claiming process for every site serving lunch and at least half of the sites serving breakfast.
2. Complete an On-site Monitoring Form for each site, and program, observed.
3. Retain the completed, and signed, [*On-site Monitoring Forms*](#) at the local level for three years, plus the current school year.

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